

# FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 14 Issue 14

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

August 20, 2012

## 3rd MAW flight crews help fight California wildfires



Marine aircraft  
partner with  
California  
agencies for  
aerial firefighting





## Marines awarded for life-saving actions

Two Marines with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 “Sharpshooters” were awarded Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medals for quick reactions.

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## MWSS-373 hosts bring your child to work day

Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 held a Bring Your Child to Work Day, including static aircraft displays and a bounce house for the children.

For full story click  
Click [HERE](#) for more photos

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## Joint training puts the sting in Scorpion Fire

Marines with 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company and 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion conducted training to enhance proficiency controlling fixed and rotor wing aircraft during Scorpion Fire outside of Yuma, Ariz.

For full story click  
Click [HERE](#) for more photos

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Maj. Gen. (sel)  
Steven W. Busby  
Commanding General  
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



Col. John P. Farnam  
Commanding Officer  
MCAS Miramar

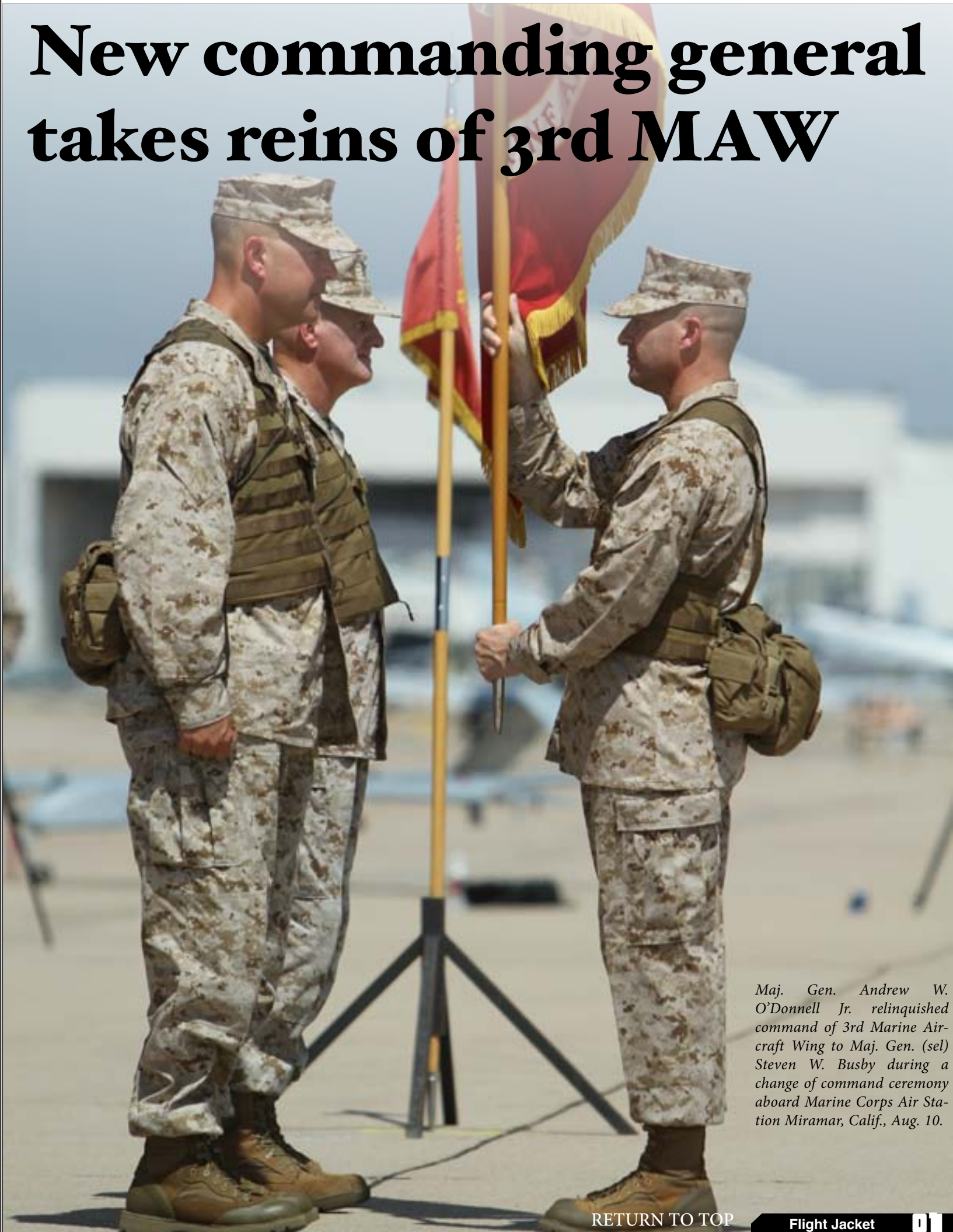
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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office. Comments or questions should be directed to 858-577-6000.

# New commanding general takes reins of 3rd MAW



Maj. Gen. Andrew W. O'Donnell Jr. relinquished command of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing to Maj. Gen. (sel) Steven W. Busby during a change of command ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 10.

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## ON THE COVER:

The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing partnered with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to conduct aerial firefighting against wildfires ablaze in eastern San Diego County Aug. 15.



Story by Cpl. Ryan Carpenter

Maj. Gen. Andrew W. O'Donnell Jr. relinquished command of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing to Maj. Gen. (sel) Steven W. Busby during a change of command ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 10.

O'Donnell took command of 3rd MAW Sept. 23, 2011, and will move to Yokota Air Base, Japan, to take over as the deputy commander for U.S. Forces Japan.

"You're going to take this wing to the next level," O'Donnell said to Busby during a speech. "I'm happy and excited for you. I wish you good luck."

Busby, the incoming commanding general was previously assigned as the Deputy Director, Force Management, Application and Support, Joint Staff.

"It is my distinct honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve with and learn from each of you," said Busby.

Busby ended his speech with a message to the Marines now under his charge.

"As we attack our mission with dedication and determination, know this, we're going to have a lot of fun doing it. Take care of yourself; take care of each other and semper fi."



Maj. Gen. (sel) Steven W. Busby gives a speech during a change of command ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 10.

3rd MAW receives new commanding general  
Video created by Flight Jacket Staff



Click to watch video

VMGR-352 is welcomed home after 195 days away

Story and photos by Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner

A detachment of Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 "Raiders" returned to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 4, after a 195-day deployment.

The detachment left in January 2012 to Camp Bastion Airfield in Helmand province, Afghanistan. The squadron also flew out of Forward Operating Base Delaram II in Helmand province, Afghanistan, and Kandahar Airfield in Kandahar province, Afghanistan.

The detachment supported multiple missions flying the KC-130J Hercules during their tour.

Although the unit did not receive any awards, individual awards were given to multiple Marines, explained Kevin Schulte, the

Raiders family readiness officer.

Approximately 100 friends and family of the squadron's Marines gathered to welcome home the incoming troops. The returning Marines were also greeted with music from the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band., members of the Marine Corps League and the Chapter 262 American Legion Riders, who preceded the incoming buses of Marines on motorcycles, creating a line of American flags for troops to walk through before finding their families.

"It feels great to be home," said Staff Sgt. Nicolas Mancillas, a communication and navigation technician with VMGR-352 and a Laredo, Texas, native. "I can't wait to go to my house with my family."



Above: The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band welcomes home a detachment of Marines from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 4. The detachment returned home after 195 days in Afghanistan.

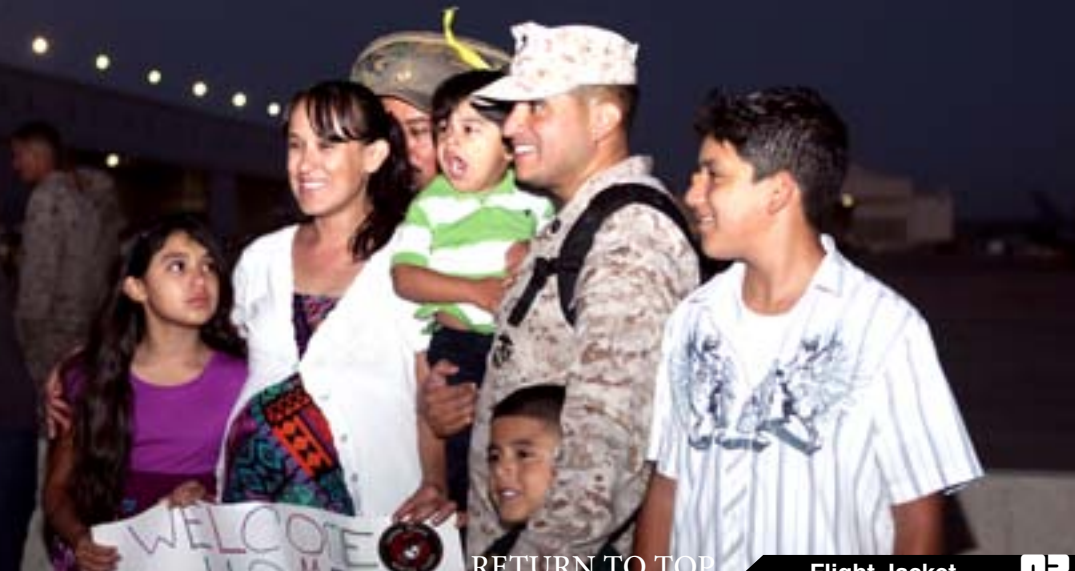


Right: Capt. Kyle Mascher, a pilot with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 and a Phoenix, native, greets his wife after a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan during a welcome home aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 4. Mascher flew a KC-130J Hercules with a detachment from VMGR-352 during his tour to Afghanistan.



Above: Lance Cpl. Clifford Karp, an airframe mechanic with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 and a Vermilion, Ohio, native, greets his loved ones during a homecoming aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 4. Karp repaired airframe damages to KC-130J Hercules aircraft during the detachment of VMGR-352's seven-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Right: Staff Sgt. Nicolas A. Mancillas, a communication and navigation technician with Marine Aerial Refueler Squadron Transport 352 and a Laredo, Texas, native, is welcomed by family at a homecoming aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 4.



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# HMMH-362: WHAT WE DO



## EPISODE 1: DRUG RAIDS AND VEHICLE INTERDICTION



[Click to watch video](#)

## EPISODE 2: GENERAL AND DIRECT SUPPORT



[Click to watch video](#)



# Marines awarded for life-saving actions

Story by Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner



Sgt. Juan Cervantes, left, a communications and navigations technicians with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 and a Sacramento, Calif., native, is presented the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal by Lt. Col. Robert B. Brodie, the commanding officer of VM-FAT-101, and a Richboro, Penn., native, during an award ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 8. Cervantes assisted two Marines in performing CPR on a sailor until first responders arrived.

Two Marines with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 “Sharpshooters” were awarded Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medals during ceremonies aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 6, and Aug. 8, for upholding the highest standards of the Marine Corps.

Cpl. Lindsey Schindler and Sgt. Juan Cervantes received the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal for helping a fellow Sharpshooter when he needed medical assistance.

On Feb. 25, Schindler, an aviation electrician and a Colfax, Wis., native, and her husband, also a Marine, found a fellow service member with the Sharpshooters, Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony Richmond, unresponsive, lying face-down outside a convenience store in need of medical assistance. Without hesitation, she called emergency responders and Cervantes, a communication and navigation technician and a Sacramento, Calif., native, who lived close by to assist. The three Marines performed CPR for approximately 20 minutes before the first responders arrived.

Their efforts made it possible for the sailor’s parents to say goodbye to their son one last time before his passing. Their actions also made it possible for doctors to preserve his organs to be donated to save or influence as many as 100 lives, according to the award citation.

“A hero is defined as a defender and a protector,” said Lt. Col. Robert B. Brodie, commanding officer of VMFAT-101, and a Richboro, Penn., native. “These Marines are who I aspire to be. Marines like this make me proud to be a Marine myself.”

Schindler and Cervantes were awarded for their efforts to potentially save the lives of others.

“Anyone could be a hero just by doing the right thing,” said Schindler.

[Click HERE to view more photos](#)



Cpl. Lindsey Schindler, left, an aviation electrician with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 and a Colfax, Wis., native, is presented the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal by Lt. Col. Robert B. Brodie, the commanding officer of VM-FAT-101, and a Richboro, Penn., native, during a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 6. Schindler was one of two service members awarded for life saving actions.



**Take a look from inside:**

# Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469 "Vengeance"

**Video by Cpl. Lisa Tourtelot  
(Forward)**



[Click to watch video](#)

## Marines honored at Chargers Military Appreciation Day

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Kevin Crist

Service members from Southern California military installations gathered at Qualcomm Stadium to participate in the San Diego Chargers' 24th annual Salute to the Military day Aug. 9.

The event featured a performance by the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing band while marching on the field.

Service members unfurled a giant American flag across the field before four F/A-18 Hornets flew over the stadium, all of it happening as the

national anthem was sung.

After the flyover, Lt. Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, the commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force, participated in the pre-game coin toss.

During halftime, members of the Wounded Warriors Battalion West walked on the field for recognition for their sacrifices.

The Chargers played the Green Bay Packers for their opening pre-season game, and won 21-13.

[Continued on page 10](#)

**Video created by Lance Cpl. Max Pennington**



[Click to watch video](#)



# Marines honored at Chargers Military Appreciation Day

Continued from page 9



Above: Lt. Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, the commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force, shakes hands with Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers before the Chargers-Packers opening pre-season game. This game marked the 24th annual Salute to the Military day. The event featured a performance of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing band, as well as unfurling a giant flag during the national anthem.

Left: Marines carry a Marine Corps flag on the field for the 24th annual Salute to the Military during the San Diego Chargers-Green Bay Packers opening pre-season game at Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego, Aug. 9. The event featured an F/A-18 flyover and a performance from the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing band.

Below: Service members walk on the field for the 24th annual Salute to the Military day at Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego, Aug. 9.



Left: The San Diego Chargers kicked off their opening pre-season game with the 24th annual Salute to the Military day at Qualcomm Stadium, featuring an F/A-18 flyover, a performance from the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing band and Marine Corps color guard in San Diego, Aug. 9.







# MACG-38 Golf Outing raises money for Semper Fi Fund



Col. Bruce Barnhill, left, the commanding officer of Marine Air Control Group 38, presents a check to the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund during the MACG-38 Golf Outing fund raiser at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Memorial Golf Course aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., to raise money for the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund, Aug. 3. The event raised a total of \$2,855 for the non-profit organization.



Lt. Col. Edward J. Debish, the commanding officer of Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38 and a Shelton, Conn., native, watches his ball after teeing off during the Marine Air Control Group 38 Golf Outing. The fund raiser raised money for the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Memorial Golf Course aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., Aug. 3.

## Story and photos by Pfc. Raquel Barraza

Marine Air Control Group 38 held a golf outing fund raiser for the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Memorial Golf Course aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., Aug. 3.

The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund is a nonprofit organization that provides financial support for injured and critically ill Marines and other members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were attached to Marine units.

“The goal is to raise as much money for the Semper Fi Fund as possible,” said Col. Bruce Barnhill, the commanding officer of MACG-38 and Virginia native.

This is the first golf outing fund raiser held by MACG-38, but the squadron intends to make it an annual function, added Barnhill.

The outing was open to both active-duty service members and the public in an effort to get as much involvement as possible, as well as create awareness concerning the Semper Fi Fund.

“I don’t care if someone wins by thirty points, it is about raising money and awareness for the Semper Fi Fund,” said Master Sgt. Robert A. Sousa III, an operations officer with MACG-38 and a New London, Conn., native.

In addition to the tournament, the squadron also held a silent auction and raffle for different prizes that were donated by sponsors from the event.

“We appreciate every one coming out and helping with this great cause,” said Barnhill. “Our brothers and sisters paid a hefty price [in combat], and it’s good that we can give back to them.”

As a final presentation, Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund representatives were given a check for \$2,855, the total earned throughout the day’s events, on behalf of MACG-38.

Capt. Anthony Heverly, the headquarters detachment commanding officer with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38 and an Olean, N.Y., native, tees off during the Marine Air Control Group 38 Golf Outing fund raiser at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Memorial Golf Course aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., to raise money for the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund, Aug. 3.



# MCCS Miramar holds free barbecue for active duty

Story and photos by Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner

Marine Corps Community Services Miramar and HG Innovative Market Solutions held a free barbecue for all active duty Marines and sailors at the Great Escape aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug 10.

The barbecue offered hotdogs, grilled chicken sandwiches, pulled pork sandwiches, chips and drinks for service members to enjoy. Additionally, there was a free drawing to win a Playstation 3 game system.

“We do events like this in military bases all over the country,” said Mickey Howard, a marketing Director with HG Innovative Market Solutions and San Diego native.

This company was promoting the Survival Tactics Money Book. It is a guide on how to save money, find scholarships and grants, and helpful tips on building good credit.

Marines came to eat and left with some tips on saving money while still having fun.



Marines enter a drawing to win a Playstation 3 at a free barbecue at the Great Escape aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug 10. The barbecue was held by Marine Corps Community Services Miramar and HG Innovative Markets Solutions.



Marines enjoy chips, drinks and burgers during a free barbecue at the Great Escape aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug 10. The barbecue was to promote HG Innovative Market Solutions’ Survival Tactics Money Book.





Sgt. Noe Satana, a motor transportation operator with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and an Irvine, Calif., native, shows his son Adam, age 3, a 50 caliber machine gun during a Bring Your Child to Work Day aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 10. The event was held to strengthen relations between families and the Marine Corps.

# MWSS-373 hosts bring your child to work day

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Christopher Johns

Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 held a Bring Your Child to Work Day aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 10. The squadron set up static displays of rescue equipment, motor transport equipment, airline equipment, Explosive Ordnance Disposal equipment, weapons and a bounce house for the families and children of Marines and sailors.

“The idea behind today’s event is to allow kids to go to work with their parents and see what they do on a regular basis,” said Lt. Col. Seth Ocloo, commanding officer of MWSS-373 and a Baton Rouge, La., native. “The kids look to be enjoying themselves, they were laughing and smiling.”

Children stayed attentive at every station, while their parents showed them what they do to support the squadron.

“My daughter loved it,” said Staff Sgt. Daniel Sankey, an aviation

ground support chief with MWSS-373 and a Stevens Point, Wis., native. “She had a great time at the event and spent five hours in the bouncy house. I think this is a great experience for the kids because it brings the family closer to the Marine Corps.”

Family is an important aspect of the individual Marine to the squadron and the Marine’s leadership.

“The biggest thing is that we, as a squadron, are a very tight-knit group and families are the backbone of all the things we do here at MWSS-373,” said Ocloo. “In the Marine Corps the individual Marine is the most valuable asset we have, and the backbone of that Marine is his family. So if you have a family that supports its Marine and accepts the culture of the Corps, that individual Marine can perform his duties happily and accomplish his and his unit’s missions.”



Left: Marines, sailors and families with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 listen to an officer with the station’s Provost Marshal’s Office before a dog demonstration during a Bring Your Child to Work Day aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 10.

Right: Master Sgt. Jason Sallings, the logistics and mobility chief with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and a Columbia, S.C., native, shows Joel Cashmore, age 5, how to wear a flak jacket and helmet during a Bring Your Child to Work Day aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., Aug. 10.



Cpl. Johnathan Garcia, a heavy equipment mechanic with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and a St. Cloud, Minn., native, shows 15 month-old Kaihler Garcia a .50 caliber machine gun during a Bring Your Child to Work Day aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 10.







# Joint training puts the sting in Scorpion Fire

Story by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller

CHOCOLATE MOUNTAIN AERIAL GUNNERY RANGE YUMA, Ariz. – Marines with 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company and 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion from Camp Pendleton, Calif., conducted combined arms attacks with air and ground assets to enhance proficiency controlling fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft during Scorpion Fire, a two-week training evolution beginning Aug. 6, at two training sites outside of Yuma, Ariz.

“We’re out here supporting the wing,” said Capt. Daniel Hipol, platoon commander with 1st ANGLICO Camp Pendleton and a West Palm Beach, Fla., native.

Forward air controllers are the primary focus during the training learning to conduct air attacks, however, not only is the training for the pilots, everyone assisting benefits from the exercise.

“We’re getting a lot out of it,” said Hipol. “We have a lot of simulators back home where we get some practice talking [to the pilots], but until you can actually do something in an actual environment and get out here with real aircraft and talk to them, it’s a tremendous benefit.”

Communication is an important element in the training, if a joint

terminal attack controller plots a wrong target on the map an aircraft could potentially drop a bomb on the controllers instead of the target, explained Sgt. Ryan J. Eskandary, a firepower control team chief with 1st ANGLICO and a St. Paul, Minn., native.

As with any training, there is a chance of a friendly-fire incident, but control measures to prevent such accidents are put into place. Control teams use air panels and infrared strobes to mark their position so aircraft know friendly locations, explained Eskandary.

With these control measures in place, the risk of friendly fire is mitigated, and Marines can be concerned with other hazards such as the environment.

“The biggest risk out here for this type of training is just the environment,” said, Hipol. “It’s hot, but the benefit of that is it prepares us for future deployments, where it’s hotter than this.”

With the extreme heat of the desert, Marines must ensure they are taking the proper precautions to prevent heat related injuries.

Scorpion Fire’s training evolution continues to put the sting in Marines as they prepare for future operations putting rounds on target.

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YUMA, Ariz. – Marines with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Camp Pendleton, Calif., call mortar strikes during night training at a training site outside of Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 13. Marines conducted combined arms attacks with air and ground assets to enhance proficiency controlling fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft during Scorpion Fire during a two-week training evolution. (Photos by Lance Cpl Kevin Crist)



Sgt. Royal Coleman, a joint fire observer with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Camp Pendleton, Calif., and a DeLeon, Texas, native, reviews how to grid adjust fire missions for calling mortar strikes with a Marine at a training site outside of Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 13. Marines conducted combined arms attacks with air and ground assets to enhance proficiency controlling fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft during Scorpion Fire, a two-week training evolution.





*Marines with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Camp Pendleton, Calif., call mortar strikes during night training at a training site outside Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 13. Marines conducted combined arms attacks with air and ground assets to enhance proficiency controlling fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft during Scorpion Fire, a two-week training evolution.*



*Marines with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Camp Pendleton, Calif., learn to call mortar strikes during night training at a training site outside Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 13. Forward air controllers train to make calls to joint terminal attack controllers to call for plots where to fire ammunition.*



*An AH-1W Cobra shoots live ammunition at designated targets in a training site outside Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 13. Forward air controllers train to make calls to joint terminal attack controllers to call for plots where to fire ammunition.*



*A Marine with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Camp Pendleton, Calif., searches for target points at a training site outside Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 13. Marines conducted combined arms attacks with air and ground assets to enhance proficiency controlling fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft during Scorpion Fire during a two-week training evolution.*

**Video by Lance Cpl. Kevin Crist**



[Click to watch video](#)



*Lance Cpl. Daniel Williams and Cpl. Riley Dobbs, mortarmen with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Camp Pendleton, Calif., duck after firing a mortar round at a training site outside Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 13. Marines conducted combined arms attacks with air and ground assets to enhance proficiency controlling fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft during Scorpion Fire during a two-week training evolution that began Aug. 6.*



# 3rd MAW flight crews help fight California wildfires

## Compiled by MCAS Miramar Public Affairs

JULIAN, Calif. - The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing partnered with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to conduct aerial firefighting against wildfires ablaze in eastern San Diego County, Aug. 15.

The combined effort marks the first time helicopters from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and Camp Pendleton are assisting Cal Fire to fight the wildfires burning in East County.

3rd MAW provided eight helicopters, a mix of CH-53E Super Stallions and CH-46E Sea Knights, for use with Cal Fire under the Defense Support of Civil Authorities process. Joint training is conducted annually by the two organizations to prepare for such firefighting emergencies.

The CH-53 Super Stallions belong to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadrons 462, 465 and 466, Marine Aircraft Group 16, and are stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The CH-46 Sea Knights belong to Marine Medium Helicopter Training Squadron 164, Marine Aircraft Group 39, and are stationed at

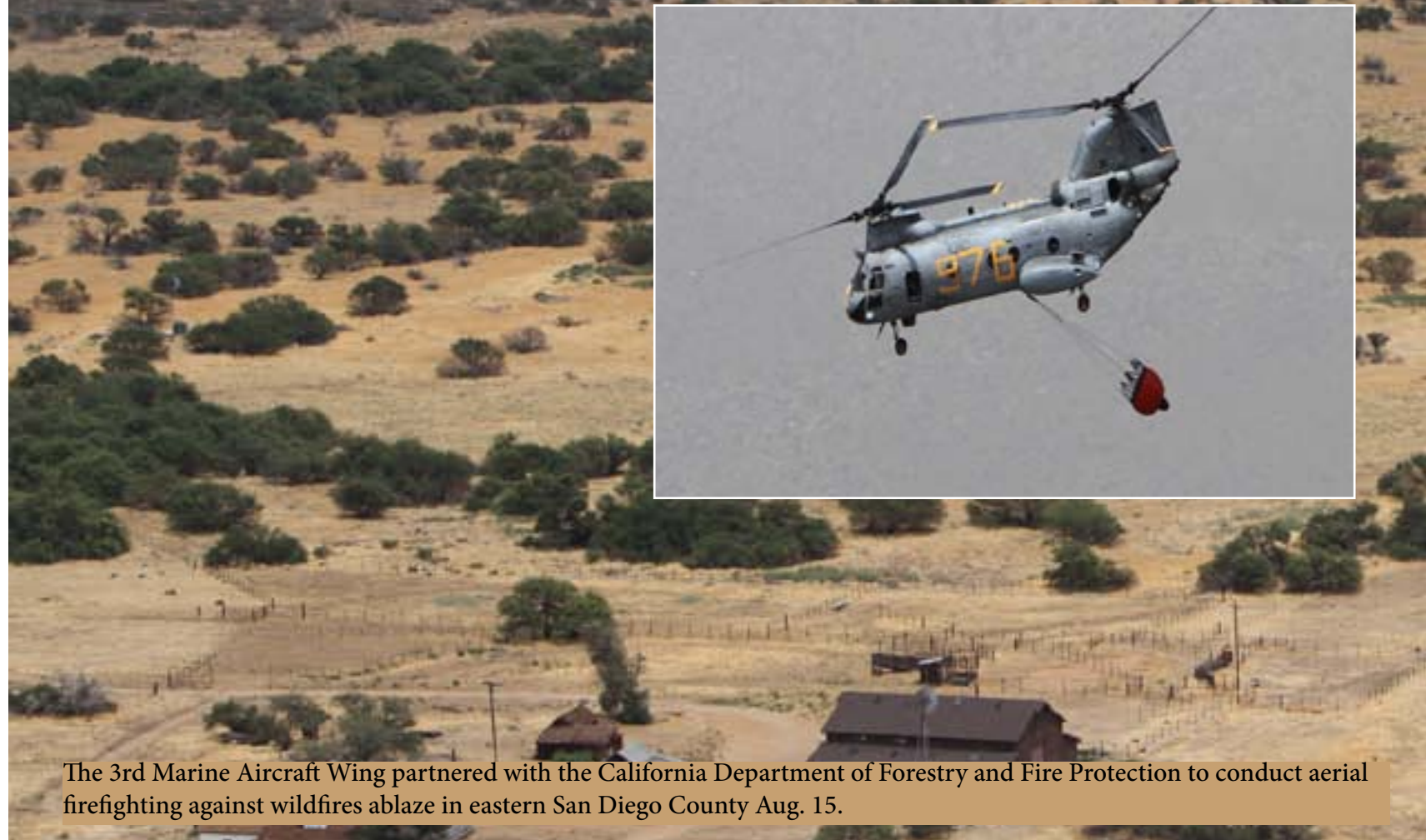
Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton.

Cal Fire Battalion Chief Julie Hutchinson said since the 2007 wildfires, where the Navy and National Guard joined firefighting efforts, Cal Fire and the Marine Corps have streamlined communications and trained together every year.

"The biggest thing is the communication with each other," Hutchinson said. "While we know that these are experienced pilots that go into battle all the time, integrating safely into a fire situation with smoke and fire and learning how to drop those buckets into specific areas is a challenge, and the training we do throughout the year are extremely valuable."

Hundreds of rural East County residents were under mandatory evacuation orders as more than 1,000 firefighters battled five lightning-sparked brush fires.

The fires -- collectively known as the Vallecito Lightning Complex -- scorched almost 10,000 acres and forced at least 4,000 evacuations.



The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing partnered with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to conduct aerial firefighting against wildfires ablaze in eastern San Diego County Aug. 15.

Video created by Flight Jacket Staff



[Click to watch](#)



# Flying high to qualify, pilots land aboard aircraft carrier

Story by Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner

ABOARD USS NIMITZ – Marines with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 trained for aircraft carrier landing qualification aboard USS Nimitz, Aug. 9 through 16.

The detachment allowed five days for six pilots to qualify trapping, which requires a pilot to land by dropping a tail hook of an F/A-18 Hornet and catching one of four wires across the landing deck which brings the aircraft to a stop.

Along with this training, pilots learn to take-off from catapults that send the aircraft to speeds greater than 150 mph in approximately two seconds.

“It’s pretty nerve-racking for new pilots,” said Severson. “Being able to land on an aircraft carrier is what makes Marine and Navy pilots some of the most qualified pilots in the world.”

Pilots must trap 10 times during the

daytime and four times at night to become qualified for flight on an aircraft carrier. They also must complete touch-and-go’s, quick landings and take-offs from the runway.

During landing, the pilot never turns off the aircraft’s power. Jet pilots must be prepared to take off again in case they do not catch the wire. Only after the pilot has had confirmation that they have caught the wire, will they cut the power, explained Maj. Christopher T. Severson, a pilot with VMFAT-101, and a San Diego native.

Pilots with the ability to land aboard an aircraft carrier are highly qualified to defend the country when ever their services are needed, explained Severson.

This training is one of the final qualifications new pilots need to complete to become fully qualified to fly with a deployable F/A-18 squadron.

Full page: Marines and sailors look on as an F/A-18 Hornet is launched from a catapult aboard the USS Nimitz, Aug. 13. Service members including a detachment from Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 completed aircraft carrier landing training from Aug. 9 to Aug. 16.

Right: Cpl. Michael Perry, an aviation ordnance technician and a Virginia Beach, Va., native, with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101, inspects an aircraft to ensure it is safe to fly aboard the USS Nimitz, Aug. 14.

Marines and sailors aboard the USS Nimitz stage F/A-18 Hornets on the flight deck aboard the aircraft carrier, Aug. 15.



A pilot prepares to be launched from a catapult in an F/A-18 Hornet during take off aboard the USS Nimitz, Aug. 13. When aircraft are launched they reach speeds greater than 150 mph in approximately two seconds.



An F/A-18 Hornet is launched from a catapult aboard the USS Nimitz during a training exercise Aug. 13. Pilots with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 completed landing qualification, referred to as trapping, aboard the aircraft carrier from Aug. 9 to Aug. 16.



Marines and sailors walk along the flight deck looking for foreign objects that may cause damage to aircraft aboard the USS Nimitz, Aug. 13

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Above: Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Head, left, air traffic control tower chief with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Sacramento, Calif., native, and Staff Sgt. Justin P. Travis, right, air traffic control radar chief with H&HS and an Atlanta, native, pose with their pool stick which they used in the doubles pool tournament for the 101 Days of Summer Challenge at the Great Escape aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug 15. Head and Travis represented H&HS in the tournament and won first place earning and total of 150 points for H&HS in the 101 Days of Summer Challenge. Top right: Cpl. Rashard St. Clair, a postal clerk and an Opelousas, Ga., native, prepares to shoot in the doubles pool tournament for the 101 Days of Summer Challenge at the Great Escape aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug 15. Right: Cpl. Ulrick Woody, a bulk fuel specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and a Phoenix, Ariz., native, prepares to shoot in the doubles pool tournament for the 101 Days of Summer Challenge at the Great Escape aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug 15. Woody and his partner took third place in the tournament and received an additional 75 points for their unit.



# Marines rack ‘em up for summer challenge

Story and photos by Pfc. Raquel Barraza

A doubles pool tournament for the 101 Days of Summer Challenge was held at the Great Escape aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 15.

The tournament is one of the last competitions to earn points for the 101 Days of Summer Challenge.

First introduced to Miramar in 1999, the 101 Days of Summer Challenge’s goal is to create fun unit competitions and events that promote eliminating the use of illegal drugs and the responsible use of alcohol in the military.

“We wanted to try to switch things up because service members go to briefs all the time but they don’t always get something from it,” said D.J. McCluskey, the Great Escape Manager and San Diego, native. “People remember humor so we try to make things funny and entertaining but educational at the same time.”

The tournament had seven teams of two players all representing different units on Miramar. All the teams received 50 points for participation and additional points if they placed in the top three teams.

“Things like this are great for unit pride,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Head, air traffic control tower chief with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a Sacramento, Calif., native.

Head and his partner Staff Sgt. Justin P. Travis, air traffic control

radar chief with H&HS and an Atlanta, native, came out to represent H&HS in the competition.

Teams played best two out of three games and winners would move on in the competition. In addition to 50 points, all the teams received a free 101 Days of Summer shirt for participating and learned information about the 101 Days of Summer program and the Great Escape.

“This competition helps us get new people to come and see what the Great Escape is about,” said McCluskey. “We want Marines to know you can come and have a good time without drugs and alcohol.”

Head and Travis played their best and it paid off when they took the prize of first place in the competition and won an additional 100 points for H&HS in the unit competition.

“I’m going to Disneyland,” joked Travis when they won. “I’m kidding, but I’m just glad we could get the points and hopefully H&HS can take the 101 Days of Summer competition too.”

Coming in second was Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 earning an additional 75 point for their unit. In third was Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 receiving an additional 50 points for their unit.

Players congratulated the winners and even when the tournament was finished they all continued to play pool for fun.

# Miramar prepares for upcoming air show

Story by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., will be hosting the 57th annual MCAS Miramar Air Show Oct. 12 through 14.

This year’s theme celebrates Marines in flight: 50 years of space exploration, and focuses on Marines in the space program from John Glenn to the present and from the time of the Mercury spacecraft to the space shuttle.

In addition to the aerial performances, the three-day event will feature a variety of space related exhibits ranging from static displays to hands-on activities.

“We are trying to get some NASA support aircraft, like the guppy, an over-sized rocket transport vehicle and some of their training aircraft,” said Ed Downum, the air show coordinator and museum director. “We will also have several mobile exhibits from the local air and space museum. That will have some space suits, space equipment and some artifacts [donated by Maj. Gen. Bolden (retired)], who was part of the space program and is a current NASA administrator.”

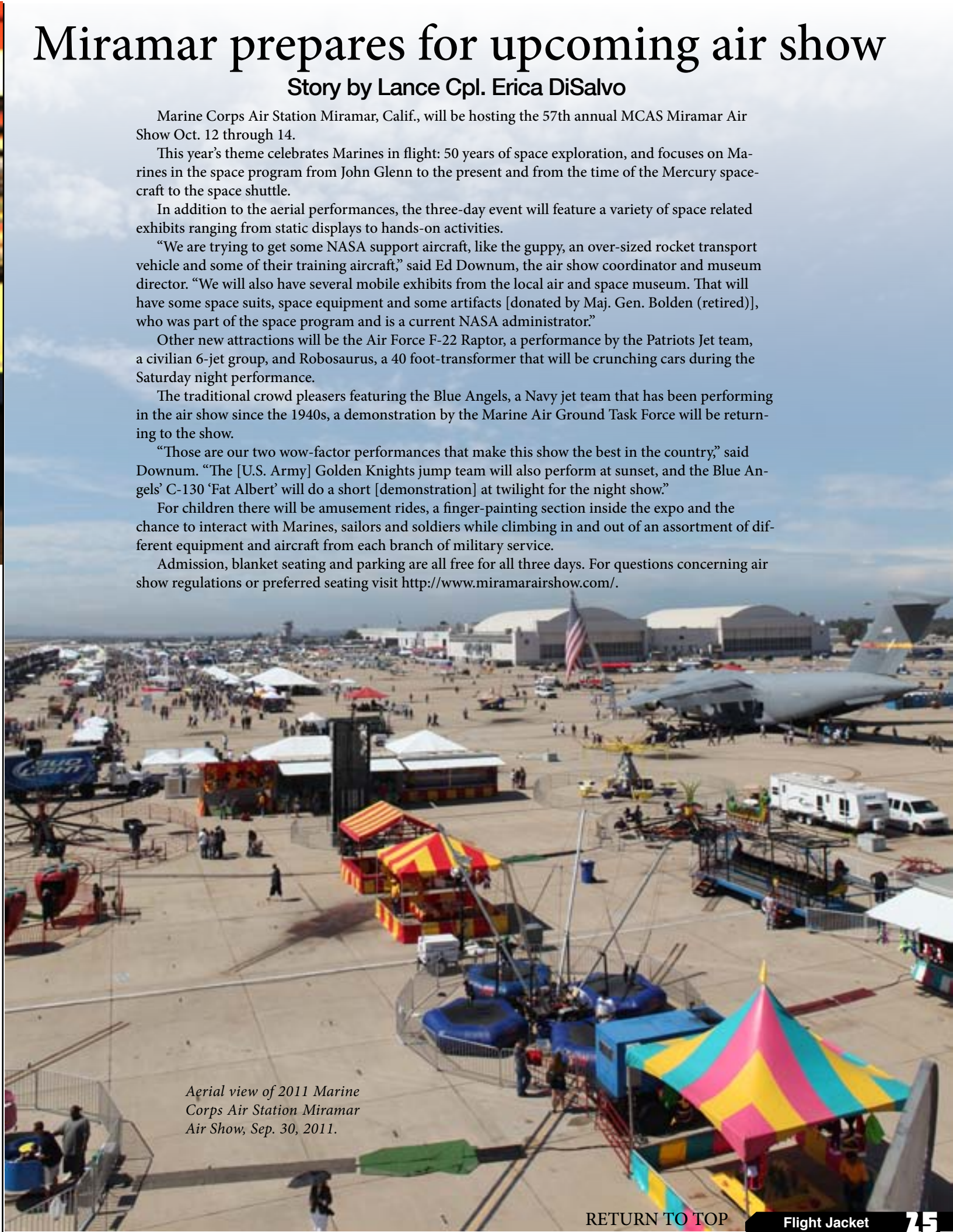
Other new attractions will be the Air Force F-22 Raptor, a performance by the Patriots Jet team, a civilian 6-jet group, and Robosaurus, a 40 foot-transformer that will be crunching cars during the Saturday night performance.

The traditional crowd pleasers featuring the Blue Angels, a Navy jet team that has been performing in the air show since the 1940s, a demonstration by the Marine Air Ground Task Force will be returning to the show.

“Those are our two wow-factor performances that make this show the best in the country,” said Downum. “The [U.S. Army] Golden Knights jump team will also perform at sunset, and the Blue Angels’ C-130 ‘Fat Albert’ will do a short [demonstration] at twilight for the night show.”

For children there will be amusement rides, a finger-painting section inside the expo and the chance to interact with Marines, sailors and soldiers while climbing in and out of an assortment of different equipment and aircraft from each branch of military service.

Admission, blanket seating and parking are all free for all three days. For questions concerning air show regulations or preferred seating visit <http://www.miramarairshow.com/>.



Aerial view of 2011 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show, Sep. 30, 2011.





Left: Katie, a military child on Sesame Street, expresses her feeling after moving and leaving her friends during the Sesame Street United Service Organization Experience for Military Families aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug 16. Right: Staff Sgt. Michael D. Kelsey, radar staff noncommissioned officer with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 and Whitehall, Wis., native, holds his son, Braiden, at the Bob Hope Theater during the Sesame Street United Service Organization Experience for Military Families Tour aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug 16.



# USO, Sesame Street introduce Katie to MCAS Miramar

Story and photos by Pfc. Raquel Barraza

The Sesame Street USO Experience for Military Families Tour stopped at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug 16. Sesame Street has been educating children with it fuzzy furry friends for more than 40 years. Since the first episode aired in 1969, Sesame Street has introduced different characters in the show and its latest is Katie. Katie, a purple-skinned orange-haired military child character, was introduced by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, and is the current star of the Sesame Street United Service Organization Experience for Military Families Tour. The tour is a free show for military families and travels to 57 military installations across the United States.

In the show, Katie shares her fears and feelings of moving to a new place after her father, a service member, is transferred to another base. Katie shares how she hopes to help other military children dealing with this issue. “I want them to know that just because

you have to move, doesn’t mean you have to stop being friends,” said Katie. “There are lots of ways to stay in touch and it is exciting to make new friends too.” Sesame Street friends like Cookie Monster, Grover, Rosita and Elmo also perform in the show and teach Katie how to deal with this change in her life. “Katie is so nice, except she was sad when she found out she had to move away with her family,” said Elmo. “Elmo and all of Elmo’s friends made her feel better by letting her know that we will always be friends.” The goal of the tour is to connect with military children that are experiencing similar situations. “I hope they learn that they are not alone,” said Katie. “There are lots of military kids and families going through the same things, just like me.” Many children in the audience were able to sympathize with what Katie was going

through. “Seeing Katie was the coolest part,” said Katrina Barlow, daughter of Petty Officer 1st Class Trevor Barlow, an engineman aboard the USS San Diego (LPD-22). “Katie will have to move to a new school, and my brother will be new in our school.” It made her feel better to know that Katie understood how it feels to move and to make new friends, added Katrina. Parents also enjoy what the show offered for military families. “I like that the show was so relevant,” said Staff Sgt. Michael D. Kelsey, a radar staff non-commissioned officer with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 and Whitehall, Wis., native. The military families of Miramar danced and sang with Sesame Street as Katie and her friends explained that they will always have friends no matter where they are.



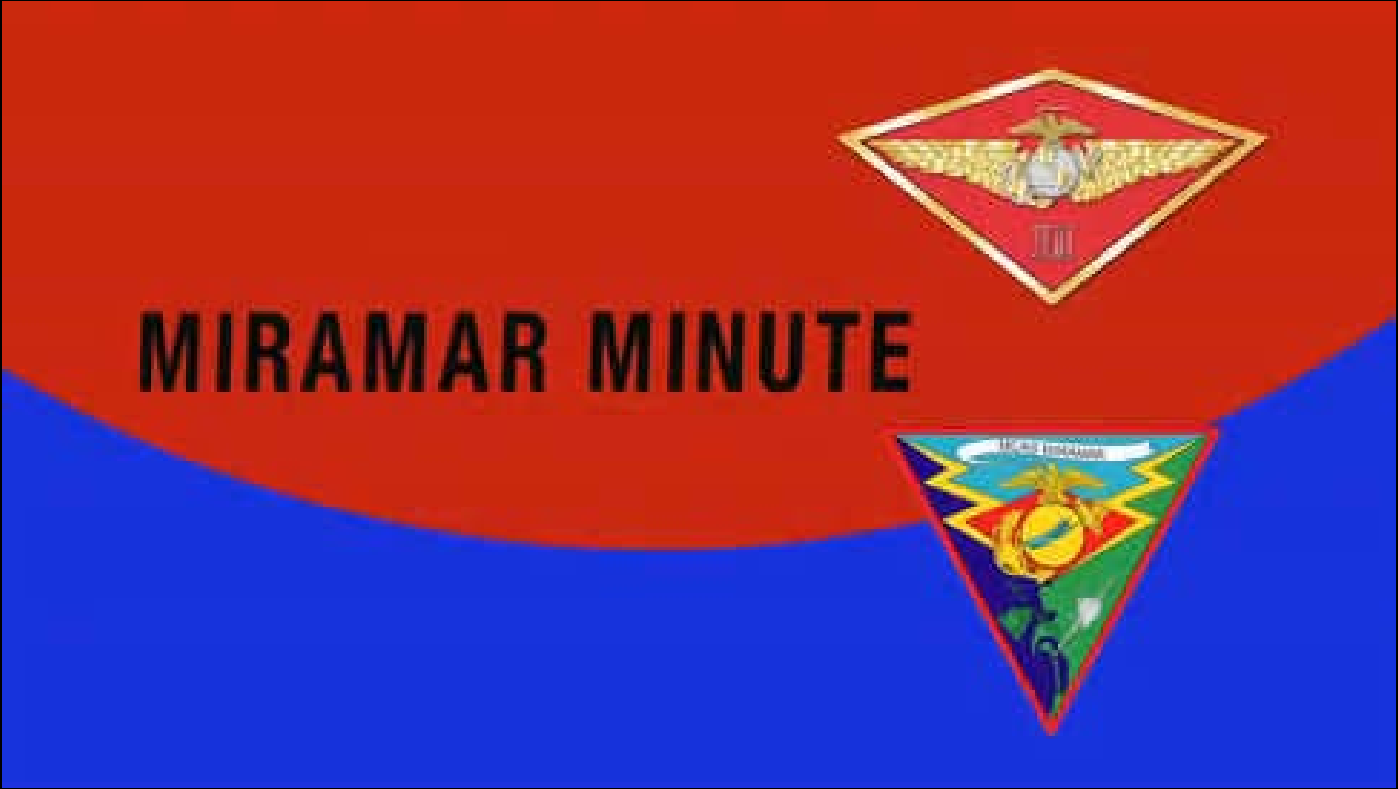
Below: Col. John P. Farnam, right, the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., thanks the United Service Organization and Sesame Street at the Bob Hope Theater during the Sesame Street United Service Organization Experience for Military Families Tour aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., Aug 16.



Above: Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Hough, a hospital corpsman with Combat Logistics Company 11 and a Cosby, Tenn., native, holds his son, Brennan, as he waves during the Sesame Street United Service Organization Experience for Military Families Tour aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug 16. The Sesame Street USO Experience for Military Families Tour is the USO’s longest free traveling tour that visits 57 military installations from April 7 through Nov. 14.

# Marine Minute: Brush fire aboard East Miramar

Video created by Flight Jacket Staff



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